

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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SAM-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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R 291621Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1688

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, SP, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN VISIT BOOSTS PRINCE JUAN CARLOS' PROFILE

REF MADRID 2632

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN AS GUEST OF SHAH BY PRINCE JUAN CARLOS GENERATED WIDE PUBLICITY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANT ROLE OF PRINCE AS LEADER OF WORKING DELEGATION. MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRINCE, REPORTED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE CONSOLIDATED IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES AND THAT TALKS WOULD BE HELD IN JUNE TO FOLLOW-UP ON PROJECTS DISCUSSED DURING VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT INVITATION OF SHAH, PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS OF FINANCE, CABELLO DE ALBA, AND FONMIN CORTINA, VISITED IRAN APR 20-24 PRINCE'S THIRD SUCH VISIT TO IRAN SINCE 1969. (SHAH LAST VISITED SPAIN IN 1965.)

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3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SHAH AND PRINCE AND TO WORKING MEETING BETWEEN PREMIER HOVEYDA AND PRINCE TO AUGMENT ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. COMMUNIQUE ALLUDED TO IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND SPANISH READINESS TO SUPPLY RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND TO COOPERATE IN PUBLIC WORKS, HOTEL AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, TOURISM, AND AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT. IRAN ACCEPTED GOS INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY IN SPANISH FIRMS AND TWO SIDES AGREED TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT ON PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS. EXISTING MIXED COMMISSION ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS RAISED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL; SPANISH MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WERE SCHEDULED TO GO TO TEHRAN MAY 17-19.

4. SPANISH MEDIA FOCUSED ATTENTION ON PRINCE'S VISIT NOTING THAT HE CHAIRED WORKING SESSIONS AND HIS STATEMENT TO HOVEYDA THAT "I AM NOT HERE ON A CIRCUMSTANTIAL VISIT, BUT TO ESTABLISH LONG-TERM COLLABORATION AS FUTURE KING OF SPAIN".

5. IN INTERVIEW APR 24, CABELLO DE ALBA SAID THAT VISIT WAS "GREAT SUCCESS" POLITICALLY WITH STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL "COORDINATION ON COMMON PROBLEMS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN SHAH AND PRINCE." HE ADDED GOS SOUGHT PARTICIPATION IN IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT TO SOLVE SPAIN'S TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM PETROLEUM CRISIS. ECONOMIC RELATIONS, HE SAID HAD BEEN "UNFROZEN" AND MINISTERIAL MISSION IN MAY WOULD BE FIRST "FOLLOW-UP".

6. FONOFF OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THE PRINCE "OPENED THE DOOR FOR US" AND "WE ARE NOW IN THE FOLLOWING UP STAGE". HIS VAGUENESS CONCERNING DETAILS OF ANY POSSIBLE AGREEMENT SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION REMAINS BEFORE SPECIFIC DETAILS MAY BE WORKED OUT. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT SPAIN HAD A ROLE TO PLAY IN MEETING IRAN'S IMPORT REQUIREMENTS.

7. COMMENT: PRINCE'S POLITICAL PROFILE HAS BENEFITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM HIGH LEVEL/TREATMENT FROM SHAH AND FROM IMPRESSION OF ACTIVE ROLE IN TALKS. GOS OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO INCREASE TRADE AND CAPITAL FLOW TIES WITH IRAN, FROM WHICH IT IMPORTED \$258 MILLION IN OIL IN 1974 AS AGAINST EXPORTS TO IRAN OF ONLY \$36.6 MILLION. (PRINCE MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST YEAR FOR PURPOSE OF IMPROVING TRADE RELATIONS TO OFFSET SPAIN'S OIL BILL.)
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